



CONCORDIA NEWS

A free publication of the Concordia Neighborhood Association

June 2022

Camp crisis covered

On pages 2 and 3, CNews details the controversy that has enveloped the location of house-less camps on Dekum Street and 33rd Avenue, with insights from neighbors, campers and Portland city officials.

Artist aids Ukraine

Concordia artist Anya Keyes is a Ukrainian native selling paintings to raise funds for her embattled native land. **Story Page 6.**

CNA Mission Statement

To connect Concordia residents and businesses — inform, educate and report on activities, issues and opportunities of the neighborhood.

Concordia News

This free, monthly publication of CNA will abstain from publishing anything that could be construed as libel.

Copies are delivered to all residences and many community and business locations in the Concordia neighborhood.

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Faubion Elementary School

Students on lives after lockdowns

By Rob Cullivan
CNews Editor

One student called it “the never-ending circus.” Another labeled it “Rona.” Still another called it “Virus 19,” and then added he simplified it sometimes to just “The Virus.”

“It’s the only virus I’ve known,” he said.

By now, the readers should have figured out fifth graders at Faubion School, 2930 NE Dekum St., were talking about Covid 19 and how it changed their lives forever over the past two years.

In a group interview, students in Nathaniel Williams’ class spoke with CNews on May 16 about how they dealt with online classes during the lockdowns

“It’s the only virus I’ve known.”

as well as how they adjusted to full-time in-person learning this year. Here’s what the kids said:

Covid Hits

When Covid 19 triggered government mandated lockdowns in early 2020, the fifth-grade students were all in third grade. One child noted the lockdowns initially seemed like fun: “I was happy I could spend time with friends and family.”

But most of the students said staying at home quickly turned from a novel situation into one they didn’t like.

“I prefer much more in-person school.”

“It’s hard for me personally because I need one-on-one learning.”

“It was soooo isolating.”

“I feel like I lost my social skills.”

Online Learning

The students had somewhat mixed views regarding online learning — staying at home allowed them more sleep, for example, but a number noted working online didn’t always fully engage them the way being in a classroom does. Some even confessed to misleading their teachers about the level of attention they were paying to a subject.

“I would just pretend my computer was having difficulty.”

“If it got too loud, my mom would tell me to turn down the computer volume.”

“I feel like I didn’t learn anything new, and nothing helped me.”

Socialization

A recurring issue for the children was how the lockdowns affected their ability to socialize when they returned to school. Several said they felt it set back their ability to mature and interact well with others.

“In a classroom you can connect with people ... but on a computer you can’t really affect that.”

“It was hard to hang out with my friends because you always had to be (six feet) away from them.”

“We were kind of going insane ... we got angrier.”

One student said he did learn how to



Nuss Hubbard, top photo, and Adelaide Maddox, above, were among several fifth-grade students who shared their experiences of life before, during and after the Covid lockdowns. Photos by Peter Keller.

cook for himself, and others said they did enjoy spending more time with their relatives, including young cousins also unable to attend school in person. One child noted a benefit of learning at home was it made him more of a self-starter, perusing learning sites online without being prompted by a teacher.

When they returned, Williams said the children took a while to adjust to being back at school, and asked far more questions than his fifth graders did in years past.

“What I noticed is they needed a lot of affirmation,” he said. “They were looking around like they’d never been in a classroom.” He and the students chuckled when one child reminded him he had said they “were all acting like a bunch of third graders” at first.

“If we had to do online school till college, we’d all still be acting like third graders in college!” one student said.

Final thoughts

No generation of American children until now has ever dealt with an event quite like Covid — even during the influenza that swept the nation from 1918-20.

Millions of children like the ones at Faubion lost out on a couple of years of in-person learning, and it’s clear after talking to them that the fifth graders at Williams’ class have been changed forever by the lockdowns.

Kaleb Negash said he most missed seeing his extended family during the lockdowns.

“If I have kids, they’re going to see their aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings and grandparents five days a week!”

Adelaide Maddox, 11, said they, too, has learned to cherish their family.

“I’m going to try to see my family again and again and to never waste any minutes with them because you never know when you will see them again.”



CNews Editor Rob Cullivan is a veteran journalist, publicist and grant writer who has written about everything from rock ‘n’ roll to religion. He possesses a deep affection for writers and photographers who hit deadline.

From the Board

By Peter Keller, CNA Chair



Hamlet 33

As the volunteer CNA Chair, my goal is to try to be impartial and allow everyone in the neighborhood a chance to be heard. At the end of the day, I'm just another neighbor. Earlier in April, neighbors sent us a document listing their experiences with the houseless community at NE 33rd Ave. and Dekum Street. Since 2019, houseless people have been calling the grassy medians at this intersection home, a portion of which they call Hamlet 33.

Hamlet 33 can't control the neighboring camps.

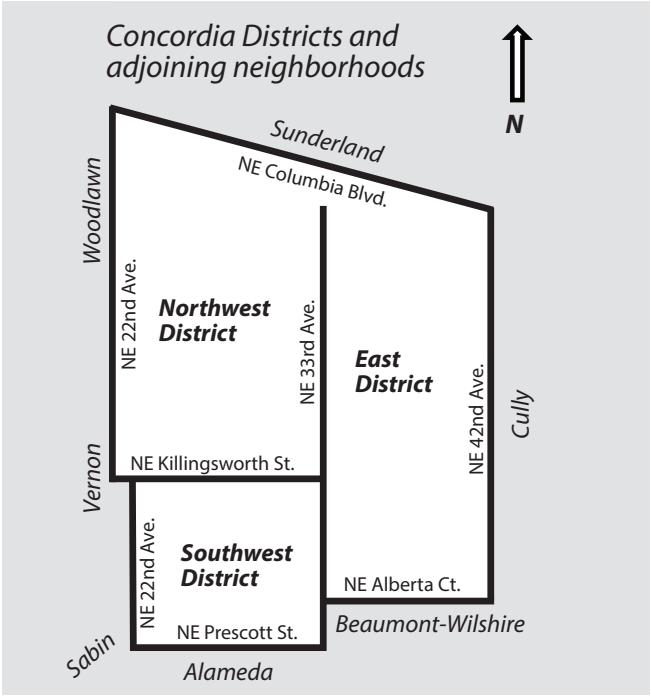
The camp has grown over the years and expanded from one camp to several. According to the immediate neighbors, with the growth has come problems including public indecency, psychotic episodes, nightly fires, and theft allegedly linked to a few members of the camps. Despite reporting the camps 23 times to pdxreporter.org since 2020 and writing multiple letters to Mayor Ted Wheeler's office and Portland Bureau of Transportation among others, the neighbors have had little response and no action. Empathizing with the housed neighbors, we offered to forward the document to Mayor Wheeler's office and other city officials and invited officials and neighbors to the April 20 Land Use and Transportation Committee (LUTC) meeting to discuss the topic. Sam Adams, who works for Mayor Wheeler, responded, saying the camps were on their radar, and he sent a representative to the meeting. More than 50 neighbors also showed up to the virtual LUTC meeting.

The following day, houseless neighbors at Hamlet 33 were given notice that the camps would be swept in three to 10 days. Fast forward to our May CNA Board meeting where we had a full classroom at the Kennedy School Community Room for our first in-person meeting since 2020. After some typical CNA Board business, we heard from representatives of Hamlet 33. Becky, a resident of Hamlet 33, explained that camp residents do their best to be good neighbors. When they have bad actors, they ask those people to leave. Unfortunately, as she explained, the camps have grown as people have been pushed out of other areas, and Hamlet 33 can't control the neighboring camps. As of today, the worst offending camp that was adjacent to housed neighbors' fences was swept. Currently the camp known as Hamlet 33 has been granted a reprieve. Volunteers have provided trash cans, and the city apparently will let them stay if they keep it tidy. For now, the only alternative housing the city is giving campers is communal overnight shelter. The shelters don't allow pets or partners, people can't stay there during the day, and they can only have one bag of belongings with them. When the city sweeps a camp, the people must move somewhere else without any assistance. Many have no cars or means of moving. I personally witnessed people feebly pushing their single shopping carts of belongings down busy Lombard Street. So where do they go? Somewhere else... Native Portlander Peter Keller has lived in Concordia since 1997. He runs a small marketing agency with partner Max, out of their home studio. He loves exploring outdoors with and without his dogs.

Concordia Neighborhood Association

- Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of the month, Wednesday, June 1, 6 p.m., McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room with call in option, see box below, contact Peter Keller, Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org
Future meeting dates: 7/6, 8/3, 9/7, 10/5, 11/2
- General Membership Meeting**
Wednesday, June 1, 7 p.m., McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room with call in option, see box below
Future meeting dates: 9/7, 11/2
- Social Committee**
If you'd like to volunteer to help plan fun, community-building events, contact Javier Puga-Phillips at Social@ConcordiaPDX.org.
- Media Team**
1st Monday of the month, Monday, June 6, 6 p.m., venue: remote, see box below, contact Shawn Mihalik, MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org
- Land Use & Transportation Committee**
Wednesday, June 15, 7 p.m., venue: remote, see box below, contact Ben Taylor at AL5@ConcordiaPDX.org
- Finance Committee**
Last Wednesday of the month, Wednesday, June 29, 7 p.m., venue: contact Heather Pashley, Treasurer@ConcordiaPDX.org
- Community Room Rental**
For info and scheduling, visit ConcordiaPDX.org/community-room-rental or contact Javier Puga-Phillips at CNARoomKennedy@gmail.com.

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Submissions to Concordia News: Deadline is the 10th of the month preceding the upcoming monthly publication. Contact CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org
Submissions to CNA website: Submit nonprofit news & events to MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org
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CNA meeting venues, how to attend
To learn how to attend CNA meetings in-person (when available) or remotely, visit:

- ConcordiaPDX.org/CNAMeetings
- Facebook.com/groups/ConcordiaPDX

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Concordia Neighborhood Litter Pick-Up

Care about your neighborhood? Want to help?

What: Join SOLVE and your neighbors for a litter pick up in the Concordia Neighborhood.

When: Saturday, June 4th, 9:00 a.m. – noon

Where: Meet in Alberta Park, NE Ainsworth & 22nd

Registration: Pre-registration is required! Please sign up ahead of time and fill out the volunteer waiver form:

SOLVE0regon.org/opportunity/a0C8W00000V8b0t

Questions? Contact Gina Levine at CNewsBusiness@ConcordiaPDX.org or call 503.891.7178.

More info: ConcordiaPDX.org/NeighborhoodLitterPickUp

Houseless campsites crisis comes to a head

By Shawn Mihalik
CNA Media Team Lead

A number of Concordia residents are concerned about the status of a houseless campsite occupying the medians at the intersection of NE 33rd Avenue and Dekum Street.

Initially three camps—A, B, and C—the site known locally as Hamlet 33 now comprises two independent but closely situated camps, after camp C was evicted by the city in April.

“I definitely empathize with the people who live there and are going through this wave of homelessness and drug addiction and the hard times we’re going through,” Concordia resident Matt Caldwell said. His post about the situation on the hyperlocal social network Nextdoor has received over 500 comments. Nevertheless, Caldwell and other Concordia residents have expressed concern about fires, ecological and sanitation issues, and alleged thefts connected to the camp. Caldwell said the camps have been connected to at least four incidents of theft and prowling and claims to have security footage connecting inhabitants of the camps to at least two auto break-ins.

Neighbors have also expressed concern over the camps’ proximity to the highway and to Faubion school, which is just two blocks away.

“My freshman daughter has to walk down 33rd and the now-closed ramp to Columbia Boulevard from school every



Hamlet 33, at the intersection of NE 33rd Avenue and Dekum Street, currently comprises two independent but closely situated camps, camp A (top photo) and camp C (bottom photo). Camp B was evicted by the city in April. Photos by Shawn Mihalik.

camp. She started a vegetable garden, which she hopes to use to bridge the gap with the neighborhood’s housed residents, hoping they will join her in tending the garden and share the produce.

“I started gardening to show my thanks to the neighborhood for allowing us to have a camp here,” she said.

Additionally, Lang has overseen the installation of several improvements to the site’s limited infrastructure.

“We have a dumpster through Republic Services’ dumpster rental program thanks to Clean Camp PDX,” a nonprofit whose goal is to provide regular

of terrible things that have happened around shelters. All shelters do is hide the face of homelessness for eight hours at night.”

Instead, Lang would like the community to work with Hamlet 33 so that its residents have a place to stay until the city’s Safe Rest Villages are established, even if it means moving the location of the camps.

“We’re people that ran into some problems,” Lang said of she and her fellow Hamlet 33 inhabitants. “But we don’t mean anyone harm. We’re just trying to live our life like everyone else, just trying to do it with love in our hearts.”



Shawn Mihalik is a novelist, photographer, martial artist, and the Concordia Neighborhood Association’s media team lead. Although he’s fairly new to Portland, he already loves it here.



day,” Concordia resident Meg Stansfield commented on Nextdoor. “This camp has been a big concern for us for a while now, and [I] wish it would be taken care of like the other camps ... that have been removed.”

Neighbors have reported the site to Portland city officials 23 times since March of 2020, but aside from the eviction of camp B, they say their reports have gone unaddressed.

Meanwhile, the site has grown from a single tent in 2019 to around a dozen.

“We’re seeing what happens when the government doesn’t do its job,” Caldwell said. His goals for the area include the cleaning and clearing of the remaining camps; the installation of “No Camping” signs, barriers, or rock gardens to prevent future camping; and the creation of volunteer patrols to protect the area after evictions.

“I know how complex this is, but the more I think about it ... to really do nothing and just let it be, that can’t be a solution,” he said.

In response to their neighbors’ concerns, residents of Hamlet 33 are asking for the neighborhood to work with the houseless community to avoid sweeps. Rebecca Lang, de facto leader of and spokesperson for camp A, where she has resided since April 2020, has been working to make improvements to the

garbage collection services to houseless camps. “Trash service is one of the integral parts of being able to maintain a camp that is sanitary,” Lang said.

The site also has an ad hoc hand-washing station, clean water for which is often provided by nearby Concordia neighbors.

Keri Morin Handaly, a resident of the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood, has been working to help Hamlet 33’s residents keep their camps clean and support their goal of connecting with the Concordia community.

“We have about 20-plus volunteers who have availed themselves to support the camp,” Handaly said.

The camp members are fully on board with talking to the community and creating guidelines for them to be able to stay there.

“We really want the community to understand that [the camp residents are] not just refusing to leave,” Handaly said. “It’s not permanent. It’s compassion-based.”

Lang urges her Concordia neighbors to consider the costs associated with evicting camps and pushing the houseless into shelters.

“The thought of sleeping in a room with a hundred people you don’t know is kind of scary,” she said. “Every homeless person has had happen or heard

“I’ve been open to us moving to a place that’s preferable,” she said. “It’d be an awesome thing if we could work with Concordia to open a campground. If you see people as people and not just homeless, they’ll want to do better. When you sweep people constantly, they have no connection to where they’re at. If you give them a place they can trust in, they want to do better.”

Portland Commissioner Dan Ryan, who is championing the Safe Rest Village program, describes SRVs on his website as “an improved point of entry for Portlanders on the continuum from living on the streets to finding stability in permanent housing ... All Safe Rest Villages will include case management with wraparound behavioral and mental health services. They will not be unmanaged tent or vehicle camping as people are currently living in—they are a way to address that unsafe, unsanitary, and dehumanizing way of living.”

Ryan’s office currently has plans to establish 10 SRVs, with expansion in the future. The city’s first SRV, in the 2300 block of Southwest Naito Parkway, opened in May. Portlanders can learn more about Safe Rest Villages at www.portland.gov/ryan/safe-rest-villages.



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Pride Month

Writer celebrates Pride with husband

By Jon Dickman
CNA Media Team

According to my husband, life-long Concordia resident Bob Wilson, the way many people treated him years ago often left him feeling he was a “gay abomination before the Lord.” Luckily, much has changed since then, or as Bob puts it: “I am fortunate beyond the wazoo for the kindness of so many people throughout my life’s journey.”

One such person was his mother, Jane Wilson, whose passion for nature, hiking and gardening gave him a spiritual antidote to the effects of society’s harshness. Visits to the Columbia River Gorge with

friends afforded Bob much opportunity over the years to experience serenity through communing with nature and hugging trees.

“Trees get challenged by CHD,” Bob says. “Chronic hug deficiency.”

His love of nature indirectly led to the first of several times he walked in the Portland Pride Parade – aptly, in a tree costume with the Adventure Group, an LGBTQ+ outdoor recreation club. Bob found the members’ camaraderie, as well as the fellowship he received from other gay groups – for example: Portland Gay Men’s Chorus and Soyboys, a vegan potluck group – to be a rich source of emotional support.

Twenty-five years ago, 10 years after his previous relationship had ended, Bob and I met, thanks to the Confidential Connection, a telephone dating line.

“Before I met Jon,” he often tells people, “I was convinced I was going to have to move to Mars before I would find a gay man who would lovingly mesh with my unique qualities.”

The evening we met – Jan. 3, 1997 – I was overcome with the sense he would be

the man I would share the rest of my life with. It took Bob another two months or so before he was equally convinced.

We both are so grateful for all we’ve witnessed in the community over the years to help validate LGBTQ+ relationships, especially Oregon’s legalization of same-sex marriage in May, 2014. We got married the following August.

This month we plan to once again

attend the Portland Pride Parade, this time cheering from the sidelines. Portland Pride Festival takes place at Tom McCall Waterfront Park, Saturday and Sunday, June 18-19.

The Pride Parade leaves downtown en route to the park on June 19 at 11 a.m. You can find more information about Portland Pride Northwest on their event website PortlandPride.org.



Jon Dickman, enthusiastic volunteer with Portland FolkMusic Society and lover of classical jazz vocals, leads a memoir/show-and-tell group for NE Village PDX called “It’s All About Us.”



Jon Dickman and his husband, Bob Wilson, right, were married in 2014. Contributed photo.



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CNA General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, June 1 at 7 p.m. in-person at McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room.

Remote access available via Google Meet. Visit ConcordiaPDX.org/CNAMeetings for details.



Get the latest update on the Concordia campus

Guest speakers from the **University of Oregon** include:

- Matt Roberts, Asst. Vice President for Community Relations
- Jane Gordon, Vice Provost for Portland
- Randy Kamphaus, Interim Executive Director, Ballmer Institute for Children’s Behavioral Health



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CNA Social Committee

Last Thursdays on Alberta return this month

By Javier Puga-Phillips,
CNA social committee chair

Thank you again to all the volunteers and for all of the support from our community during the Spring Egg Hunt. The winners of the egg hunt raffle were Donna Amrein, Katie Schaumleffle, Brian Jensen, Michael French, and Catherine Swanson.

Last Thursdays

June is a great month for social events, including the return of last Thursdays on Alberta Street. The plan is to celebrate on Alberta Street between NE 15th Ave. and NE 30th Ave. from 6-9 p.m. every last Thursday of the month. Make sure to mark your calendars and show up to support our local businesses and vendors.

Black United Fund will open up their lot (corner of Alberta St. & NE 29th Ave.) to host several tents supporting our BIPOC community. Alberta Art Works (NE 19th St & Alberta St) will also be hosting live performances, art and many more surprises.

Additionally, Blind Insect (corner of NE 29th Ave. & Alberta St., across the street from Black United Fund) will host “Barrio Parties” on Last Thursdays from June to September, with a different theme each month: **June:** African Party. **July:** Argentinian Party.

August: Brazilian Party. **September:** Cabaret theme.

Several other businesses on Alberta are getting ready to celebrate Last Thursdays, among them:

Bonne Chance (corner of Alberta Street and NE 22nd Ave.) will be celebrating with an eclectic selection of music and adult beverages.

DB Desserts (Alberta St. between NE 26th & NE 27th Avenues) is offering specials on some of their sweet treats to celebrate.



Javier Puga-Phillips holds the At Large 4 position on the Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) Board of Directors, manages rentals of the McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room and chairs the CNA Social Committee. He is a real estate professional locally, and he is a published author and motivational speaker in Latin America and Spain.

Holy Beanz Coffee (next door to DB Desserts) will host their “After Sundown Spoken Word & Poetry” from 7-9 p.m.

JRJ Skillets (on Alberta St. between NE 25th & NE 26th Avenues) will offer “Aguas Frescas, Tamales, Elotes, Tacos & Nachos” for the whole family on its brand-new patio.

Free concerts

Also coming this summer, the Concordia Neighborhood Association will collaborate with the City of Portland to bring back “**Summer at the Park**” concerts.

The first band, Son de Cuba, a Latin jazz/merengue/salsa group, performs from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, July 15, at Alberta Park. Please stay tuned to next month’s column for more details.

Litter pick-up events

Moving on with neighborhood updates, the neighborhood litter pick-ups have been incredibly successful. Thanks to our many volunteers we have picked up more than 9,000 pounds of trash from Concordia’s streets. We still have work to do though, so please sign up for our next litter pick-up event from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 4, at Alberta Park. See Page 2 for more details.

If you cannot make it to this one, we have future litter pick-ups scheduled on Aug. 6, Oct. 1 and Dec. 1.

Yard sales

A quick survey for residents: We have received several requests for different events. One of them is a coordinated “Neighborhood Yard Sale” where neighbors can set up their own yard sales. If you are interested in this event please email with the subject “Yard Sale.” Depending on the response we will plan to help coordinate.

Clary Sage

The Concordia Neighborhood Association would like to highlight Clary Sage Herbarium, 2901 Alberta St., which opened in 2011 and changed ownership in 2021. Kara Maymi is the entrepreneur currently behind the shop.

Maymi started her herbarium education as an intern at Clary Sage. Later, when an opportunity to join the management for Clary Sage materialized, the pandemic hit. Instead of letting the business close, Maymi decided to purchase the shop and continued following her passion for medicinal plants.

According to Maymi, her calling is the plant world. The shop has a large variety

of medicinal plants, some sourced locally. Sharing knowledge of plants from scientific, spiritual and practical points of view with customers is a priority.

“We love to see how people express themselves through plants,” Maymi said.

In addition to plants, Clary Sage offers house-made essential oils, candles, crystals, incense, body care and many other natural products. They are also proud of the quality of their teas and herbal extracts.

Originally from Puerto Rico, Maymi now considers herself a Portlander at heart, and said she finds Concordia to be her community. Community is one of the pillars of the Clary Sage approach. Plants, like people, live in diverse communities, she said.

“When we engage with plants, we can learn how important community is and their relationships among themselves and even with humans.”



Kara Maymi takes care of business at Clary Sage Herbarium, 2901 Alberta St. Photo by Christopher Baker.

Volunteers needed

The social committee needs volunteers for all events. Please email social@ConcordiaPDX.org, or call/text Javier Puga-Phillips, chair of the social committee, at 323.573.1516.

Finally, make sure to follow us on instagram @CNAPDX and use #SocialConcordiaPDX to get a shoutout.

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Sojourn Kids Camp

June 27-June 30 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Age: 5+

The camp will consist of a variety of activities for kids to have fun and interact with others in the community. There will be sports, team games, and opportunities to develop creativity through crafts. Don't miss this great opportunity to help support Vernon School.

Cost: \$25 for the first camper, \$10 for each additional camper.

Sojourn Church – A Neighborhood Church

sojournpdx.org/kidscamp
info@sojournpdx.org



Concordia Art Works

Artist raises funds for Ukraine war victims

By Maquette Reverts
Alberta Art Works

Born in Kyiv, Ukraine, Anya Mironets Keyes moved to the United States when she was 16. Her family has lived in Ukraine for 14 generations.

“When I moved to the U.S. I was a junior in high school,” she said. “I didn’t speak English then and to get enough credits to graduate I took as many art classes as possible because I didn’t have to speak. My AP art teacher taught me fundamentals and instilled in me the idea that I could be an artist one day.”

Being a first-generation immigrant, a career in arts was not a reliable choice, so she studied and became a pharmacist. Nonetheless, Keyes continued pursuing her art, creating paintings in oils and watercolors, centered around her Ukrainian identity.

Her experiences as a first-generation immigrant, a foreign-born mother, friend and American citizen are expressed in her atmospheric paintings, the most recent of which feature images of her fellow Ukrainians.

“I enjoy the creativity and solitude that comes with art,” she said. “It’s meditative and restorative. It truly is the best fit for me.”

When the war in Ukraine erupted, she felt helpless watching the senseless devastation of her home country and decided to create a body of work and donate all proceeds to help volunteer groups in Ukraine, especially in under-served areas. Her portraits, mostly



Anya Mironets Keyes is raising funds for victims of the Ukraine-Russia war by selling such paintings as these pictured above and right. Contributed photos.



of women, are currently available for purchase.

For more information, visit AnyaKeyes.com or visit the Blind Insect Gallery, 2841 NE Alberta St.



Michel Reverts, aka Maquette, holds a master of arts degree in art education and serves Alberta Art Works as director and Alberta Street Gallery as a board member. She is also a practicing artist. Contact her at Maquette@AlbertaArtWorks.org

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News from the NET

Getting ready for high temps this summer

By Erin E. Cooper
Concordia/Vernon/Woodlawn
Neighborhood Emergency Team

Although 2021’s heat dome was an extreme weather event, high summer temperatures are not new for Portland, and a little bit of preparation can, at the least, help us stay more comfortable and at best can save lives.

Last year also taught us those high temperatures can start as early as June, so it’s worthwhile to start thinking about summer before the expected hot weather of July and August.

If you have central air conditioning, turn it on and make sure it’s working before summer. If it needs servicing, you’ll have an easier time getting it scheduled if you’re not in peak season. Similarly, if you’re considering smaller AC units, buying before the start of the summer season is a good idea. Even fans can be hard to find once a heat wave is in the forecast.

Other modifications can minimize the amount of heat that enters the home. Closing blinds or drawing curtains can help keep interior temperatures down, as can putting up reflective surfaces in the windows. Insulating windows and doors

helps prevent hot air from getting inside. More tips on preparing the home can be found at ready.gov.

Make a plan for places to go if your home cannot stay cool enough to be safe and comfortable. During dangerously high temperatures, Multnomah County and the City of Portland open cooling shelters, where anyone who needs to get out of the heat can do so. These locations are provided by local government, but largely staffed by volunteers. The locations and dates of operation of shelters are announced when extreme weather is forecast, so if you need a cooling shelter or are available to volunteer, follow the local news or local government on social media. Simple preparation and basic plans for hot weather can make heat waves much more bearable.

Erin E. Cooper is a marine biologist living in Woodlawn. She spends a lot of time thinking about disasters and has been a NET member for many years. Contact her at OceanListener@gmail.com.



Pigeon Heart Designs

Jeweler makes custom pieces in her home

By Rob Cullivan
CNews Editor

If you’re contemplating buying jewelry, pigeons might not be the first things that come to mind. However, for Concordia resident and jeweler Lisa Hirsch, there’s a logical connection between the ambling avian animals and people’s ornaments of adornment.

“The jewelry I create is a reflection of the pigeon walk,” she said. “It is versatile and adaptable; raw and rugged; it’s loveliness in one fine package. And then you strut!”

Hirsch named her custom-made jewelry company, Pigeon Heart Designs, in their honor.

“They’re intelligent, loving, tenacious survivalists whose iridescence is akin to built-in jewelry,” she said. “Pigeons stand tall, and always look elegant.”

During the worst of the Covid pandemic, Hirsch found herself out of work and decided to focus on working fulltime on jewelry from home, where she makes her pieces to order. She sells her products at local open-air markets as well as online. Her product line includes



CNews Editor Rob Cullivan is a veteran journalist, publicist and grant writer who has written about everything from rock ‘n’ roll to religion. He possesses a deep affection for writers and photographers who hit deadline.

hoops, earrings, necklaces and studs, which she fashions in her garage.

A native of New York City, she moved to Portland 11 years ago and the Concordia neighborhood about two years ago.

“My background in jewelry goes all the way back to messing around with just about every artistic and creative medium in New York, where I grew up,” she said. “I beaded jewelry, then learned about wire wrapping, taking wire and wrapping it around itself and/or beads and other components to create jewelry. Once I moved out here, I began playing around again with jewelry making, but this time hammering, also known as cold connections, metalsmithing without heat, and got some pieces into stores.”

Hirsch creates pieces to order and said no one product is more popular than the other.

“I’m fortunate to continually develop new ideas for styles, so I get a nice amount of repeat customers who like the new and continuous variety,” she said.

Her website features a section where a customer can envision a piece she then makes. She adds that “ethical sourcing” is key to her business ethic.

“As often as possible I work directly with the miners and try to buy as many domestic stones as I can,” she said. “However, there are only so many choices here in the United States, so when I get stones from abroad, they are from people who’ve vetted the mines, knowing that there are no children working in them and the miners are getting fair wages.”

To learn more about Pigeon Heart Designs, visit PigeonHeartDesigns.com.



Concordia resident Lisa Hirsch creates custom-made jewelry for her company, Pigeon Heart Designs. Contributed photo.

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Wednesday, June 22
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featuring
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Gerle Haggard Band
Lindsie Feathers
Miss Iris
Tara Velarde
The Apricots
White Bike
+ emcee Tave Fasce Drake**

**8 CONSIDER THIS
with Jelly Helm &
Natalie Garrett**

**9 PORCHELLO
BAND launch
+ Naomi LaViolette**

**18 JUNETEENTH
CELEBRATION
with
Eldon “T” Jones
+ LaRhonda Steele**

**23 SCIENCE ON TAP
Making Memories
Using Neuroscience to
Enhance Teaching
& Learning**

**24 a gender-bending
burlesque cabaret
DAPPERLESQUE**

**28 Grammy-nominated
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**29 Chamber Music
Northwest presents
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Community events calendar

Saturday, June 4, noon-4 pm
ALDER COMMONS MUTUAL AID CLOTHING SWAP
Location: 4212 NE Prescott St.
Bring clothes in good condition to donate, and take home new-to-you clothes that you're excited about. Clothes that are left over after the event will be directly distributed to local houseless communities.
Details: app.aldercommons.org/program/mutual-aid-clothing-swap

Saturday, June 4, 9 am-noon
CONCORDIA NEIGHBORHOOD LITTER PICK-UP
Location: Meet in Alberta Park, NE Ainsworth St. and 22nd Ave.
Join SOLVE and your neighbors to pick up litter in Concordia. Pre-registration is required, SOLVEOregon.org/opportunity/a0C8W00000V8b0t
Details: ConcordiaPDX.org/neighborhoodlitterpickup, cnewsbusiness@concordiapdx.org, 503.891.7178

Thursday and Friday, June 9, 10 am to 3 pm
FAUBION SCHOOL CLOTHING CLOSET DRIVE
Location: Faubion School, 2930 NE Dekum St.
Faubion School clothing closet needs new socks, new underwear and gently used clothing sizes S-to XL youth.
Details: Drop off items at school or contact Christina at cgomez@pps.net for alternative drop off times or to learn more.

Tuesday, June 14, 1:30-3 pm
INTRODUCTION TO NORTHEAST VILLAGE PDX
Location: Community for Positive Aging, 1820 NE 40th Ave.
Northeast Village PDX supports older adults to stay in their homes and remain active in the community. Presentation will include a Q & A session.
Details: 503.895.2750, nevilleagedpx.org

Tuesday, June 14, 7-9:30 pm
RACE TALKS: OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIALOGUE
Location: Kennedy School Gymnasium, 5736 N.E. 33rd Ave.
Series deals with race in Oregon, both historically and up to the present time, to provide learning experiences that support the development of racial identity and sensitivity. Each month, Kennedy School hosts a presentation on a different topic of ethnicity and racial elements in Oregon history.
\$5 - \$25 suggested donation. All ages welcome.
Details: mcmenamins.com/events/234246-race-talks-opportunities-for-dialogue

Saturdays June 4, 11, 18, 25, 10 am to noon
Mondays June 6, 13, 20, 27, 4-6 pm
ST. CHARLES FOOD PANTRY
Location: 5310 NE 42nd Ave.
"Shop" at the food pantry Mondays & Saturdays this month, or request contactless delivery of food boxes. The 9.53-square-mile service area is 28th to 82nd & the Columbia River to Mason, including Dignity Village.
Details: stcharlespdx.org/food-help.html, svdpdpdxsc@outlook.com

Saturday, June 18, 25
FOOD PANTRY
Location: 5209 NE 22nd Ave.
Sharon Seventh Day Adventist Church hosts its food pantry the last two Saturdays each month with restrictions & strict adherence to physical distancing procedures.
Details: sharonsda.net, office@SharonChurch.comcastbiz.net

Friday, July 15, 2022, 6:30-8:30 pm
CONCERT IN THE PARK
Location: Alberta Park, NE 19th Ave. & Ainsworth St.



Son de Cuba kicks off the "Summer Concerts in the Park" series.
Contributed photo.

Community calendar items
Admission to events is free unless otherwise noted. Priority is afforded to local events sponsored by – or which benefit – local nonprofit organizations. Submit information to CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org by the 10th of the month preceding the event.



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Juneteenth concert

Jones, Steele host Juneteenth concert

Saxophonist Eldon “T” Jones and singer LaRhonda Steele will perform at Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 NE Alberta St., for their first-ever Juneteenth Celebration Concert at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 18.

Jones and Steele have curated songs drawing from all African-American musical art forms. Their performance evokes the joy of emancipation that African-Americans experienced June 19, 1865, when the Union Army proclaimed freedom for enslaved people in Texas, the last state of the Confederacy with institutional slavery.

A World Arts Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Eldon “T” Jones and his saxophone playing has earned him recognition in the jazz world. His 2021 single “T’s Jam” peaked at No. 54 on the Smooth Jazz Network Top 100 and hit No. 4 on the Billboard Smooth Jazz Most Added chart. Jones, whose label is Side 2 Music, will release the single “Captured by Love” before the concert.

Oregon Music Hall of Fame inductee LaRhonda Steele, a blues and gospel singer-songwriter, currently leads the LaRhonda Steele band and the Portland Interfaith Gospel Choir. She has sung with Gino Vannelli, Curtis Salgado, Lloyd Jones, Mary Flower, and Norman Sylvester.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$20 at the door. Minors allowed when accompanied by a parent or guardian. Info: albertarosetheatre.com